

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIE-00 SSM-03 IO-13 ACDA-07 AF-08
OMB-01 EUR-12 TRSE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 /099 W
-----121619Z 013149 /41

O R 121545Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2654
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA 4632
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TELAVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 4242

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PLO
SUBJ: PNC: OPENING DAY

REF CAIRO 4172,

1. WITH SADAT DUE OPEN PNC 1500 ZULU THIS AFTERNOON,
CAIRO MORNING PRESS MAKES CRYSTAL CLEAR THAT GOE OFFICIALLY
EEXPECTS PLO TO COME UP WITH SOME FORMULATION THAT WILL
ASSIST IN THE PEACE PROCESS. GUMHIRRIYYA EDITORIAL, FOR EXAMPLE
NOTES SADAT ADDRESS WILL BE MAJOR ONE, THAT HE HAS OFTEN
DELCARED 1977 IS YEAR IN WHICH PEACE WILL BE
ESTABLISHED, AND THAT HE MEANS WHAT HE SAYS. TO EMPHASIZE
OFFICIAL IMPORTANCE OF SADAT'S REMARKS, EGYPTIANS HAVE DECIDED
TO TELEVISION THEM LIVE, AND HAVE INVITED TOP EGYPTIAN
POL LEADERS ATTEND, AS WELL AS "ARAB PERSONALITIES", AFRO-
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ARAB AND ISLAMIC AMBS AND REPS OF COUNTRIES WHICH RECOGNIZE
PLO. MORNING PAPERS NOTE POINTEDLY IN THEIR REPORTING THAT
SAUDI FOMIN HAS JUST CONCLUDED LEGNTHY TALKS WITH ARAFAT
"CONCERNING PALESTINIAN STAND TOWARD A NUMBER OF ISSUES."

2. DESPITE THIS RESOUTELY OPTIMISTIC PUBLIC STAND BY GUIDED
EGYPTIAN PRESS, HOWEVEV, MFA REMAINS FRANKLY PESSIMISTIC

(REFTEL). FAHMY'S OFFICE DIR AL-BAZ TOLD CHARGE MORNING MARCH 12 THAT PNC WILL PRODUCE NOTHING OF SUBSTANCE. ON QUESTION OF MANDATING EXCOMM TO MAKE MAJOR DECISIONS, HE ECHOED CYNICAL VIEW OF MANY OVER LAST FEW DAYS THAT EXCOMM (IE ARAFAT) IS LEERY OF SUCH MANDATE AS IT WOULD THEN BE UNABLE AVOID RESPONSIBILITY AND BLAME IF WRONG DECISIONS ARE TAKEN.

3. AL-BAZ ALSO GAVE CHARGE EXTREMELY NEGATIVE ASSESSMENT OF PLO REACTION TO PRES CARTER'S PRESS CONF. HE CLAIMED MODERATES DISAPPOINTED AND EVEN "ANGRY" AT REFERENCE TO DEFENSIBLE BORDERS AND AT LACK OF ANY REFERENCE TO A PALESTINIAN ENTITY. SUCH REMARKS, "SOME" PALESTINIANS ALLEGEDLY SAYING, SHOW THE SUBSCONSCIOUS HOSTILITY OF THE USG TO PALESTINIANS. AL-BAZ THOUGHT THIS ANGRY REACTION MIGHT BE TRANSLATED INTO ACTION (SEPTTEL) AND SAID THERE IS GROWING BELIEF IN PLO CIRCLES THAT SADAT SHOULD NOW CANCEL HIS TRIP TO WASHINGTON. IN ANY CASE THERE NO LONGER ANY CHANCE THAT PNC WILL ADOPT MODERATION OF ITS STAND ON ME PEACE.

4. RUMORS AND GOSSIP. STORIES OF QADDUMI UNDER PRESSURE CONTINUE, WITH KHALID AL-HASAN NAMED AS HIS MOST LIKELY SUCCESSOR. ARAFAT REPORTEDLY ANGRY WITH QADDUMI FOR UNAUTHORIZED STATEMENTS. FACT THAT AL-HASAN HAS ALSO BEEN (UNCHARACTERISTICALLY) HARD LINE LATELY IS DISMISSED AS UNIMPORTANT, SINCE MOST FATAH LEADERS SEEM TO BE COVERING THEMSELVES WITH SUCH STATEMENTS TO WESTERN PRESS. IN FACT, REPORTERS HERE ARE ALMOST BESEIGNED WITH INTERVIEW OFFERS. FAHAH/SA'IQA/PDFLP WORKING PAPER IS REPORTED TO BE MAIN BASIS FOR PNC DISCUSSION, WITH CURRENT EFFORT GET ALF SUPPORT

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FOR IT AS WELL. RUMORS THAT HABASH IS COMING SEEM TO HAVE NO FOUNDATION. HE TOLD WESTERN CORRESPONDENT LAST WEEK THAT HE DOES NOT WANT TO COME, EGYPTIANS DO NOT WANT HIM, AND SECURITY RISK WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE.

5. COMMENT: AL-BAZ' REMARKS TO CHARGE ON BITTERNESS AND PUZZLEMENT OF PLO MODERATES TO ALLEGED USG NON-RESPONSE TO THEIR SIGNALS OF MODERATION REFLECT VIEWS OF ALL OUT CONTACTS (REFTEL). ONLY AL-BAZ, HOWEVER, HAS SO STRONGLY EMPHASIZED NEGATIVE PLO REACTION TO PRES CARTER'S REMARKS, AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT HE IS EXAGGERATING FOR EFFECT.

MATTHEWS

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Message Attributes

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